

Nutrition News

Summer Food Service Program



September 22, 2021

End-of-the-Season SFSP Sponsor Survey

Respond by September 24!

DECAL's Nutrition Services Division appreciates your participation in the 2021 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

To better understand your experience as an SFSP sponsor, we have created an end-of-season survey. Your collected responses may be submitted anonymously, and we will use the information to ensure we are providing you the resources needed to actively and efficiently participate in the SFSP.

Please [click here](#) to participate in the survey. Please respond by **Friday, September 24, 2021**.

Again, thank you for your commitment to serving children free and healthy meals during the summer months!

How was my Customer Service?

Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team

Offering amazing customer service is our goal in Nutrition Services. Now there is a way to let us know about your experience with individual team members.

Simply click on the icon (pictured to the right) and take the four minute survey. You can also find the survey icon in the email signature of each Nutrition Services staff member.

Responses are anonymous.



Click on the icon above to participate in the customer service survey.



Governor Kemp proclaims October is Farm to School & Farm to Early Care & Education Month

Governor Brian Kemp has signed a proclamation stating October as Farm to School and Farm to Early Care and Education Month. Farm to School (F2S) and Farm to Early Care and Education (FTECE) programs represent an innovative opportunity to address some of the most critical issues facing Georgia through a comprehensive approach that seeks to improve child nutrition, thus improving academic performance and providing local market opportunities for Georgia farmers. Georgia agencies, schools, ECE providers, parents, students, farmers, and communities are collaborating to implement F2S and FTECE programs to increase access and education around fresh, local, and nutritious foods, reducing childhood obesity. To learn more about the importance of these programs, view the [proclamation](#).

After School Programs Required to Apply for License or Exemption to Participate in At-Risk

Afterschool programs **MUST** apply for a license or exemption in order to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program by submitting a complete license or exemption application to DECAL's [Child Care Services \(CCS\)](#).

For more information, contact CCS at 404.657.5562.

Annual Year End Reconciliation Notice

*Extended SFSP & Traditional SFSP or Traditional SFSP Only:
Due October 31*

Per SFSP Policy 5, Sponsors are required to submit an Annual Year End Reconciliation Form as well as the bank statement and/or general ledger **supporting the ending balance**. The form should include all operating months from October 1, 2020 - August 30, 2021.

A bank statement and/or general ledger is requested to support the balance because these are source documents that are generated from the banking institution or financial management system used by the sponsor. DECAL is unable to accept documents that were created by the sponsor (e.g., an Excel spreadsheet) or financial records that do not clearly differentiate SFSP expenses separately from other expenses.

The combined Extended or Traditional SFSP reconciliation form and final bank statement/general ledger must be submitted to DECAL no later than **October 31, 2021**.

[Click here](#) for the Annual Year End Reconciliation Form. Please submit the form via email to Gwendolyn.Howard@decalfga.gov. Please reach out to Gwendolyn Howard with any questions or concerns.



Turnip the Beet Award Nominations due September 23

Nominations for the Turnip the Beet Award officially opened August 16, 2021! Please submit your nomination to Diana.Myers@decalfga.gov by **September 23**. You can access the nomination form [here](#).

The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program

sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. Stay tuned for more details!

SFSP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous SFSP Newsletters:

- [How to Submit a Waiver Request](#)
- [Transitioning from SFSP to CACFP At Risk Afterschool Meals](#)
- [Income Eligibility Guidelines for FY 2022](#)
- [Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 2021-2022](#)
- [What to do if you have lost or destroyed records](#)
- [SFSP Reimbursement Rates for 2021](#)
- [Updated SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19](#)
- [Waiver to Claim Meals Prior to SFSP Approval](#)
- [How to File a SFSP Claim for Reimbursement](#)
- [Budgeting for SFSP](#)
- [Pre-Award Costs and Advance Requests](#)
- [USDA extends Flexibilities for Summer 2021](#)
- [Suspension and Debarment Certification Requirement](#)
- [Update: Procurement Templates \(Formal and Informal Documents\)](#)
- [Virtual Vendor Summit Replay](#)

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

Now available!

SFSP Transition to CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Webinar Recording

Are you interested in serving meals year-round when school is in-session?

Click on [Webinar Recording](#) to register and learn:

- the overview of the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program,
- eligibility, application, licensing, and exemption requirements to participate.

October 18, 2021 - Memo Monday!

Regulations are constantly changing and interpreting all the policies and memorandums can be a challenge. Therefore, Nutrition Services will offer an additional webinar on how to be successful with COVID-19 waiver(s) implementation and recordkeeping requirements during our October *Memo Monday*.

October 27, 2021 – Allocating Cost in Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs)

Are you familiar with allocation methodologies and how to allocate shared cost?

Join this webinar session to learn:

- allocating cost items to SFSP,
- allocation methodologies for popular shared cost categories and
- required budget forms.



**Registration
Coming Soon**

In Case You Missed It: *Memo Monday!*

Memo Monday webinars provide an overview of new and/or revised policy memorandums for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and/or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

If you missed a *Memo Monday*, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars. The *July Memo Monday* webinar discussed procedure updates when requesting a waiver using the USDA Waivers feature in GA ATLAS.

Integrating Local Foods into Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

Looking for local foods? Check out the new USDA fact sheet on integrating local foods. The opportunities for serving local foods in child nutrition programs are abundant. Not only can local foods span the plate, but program operators can serve local foods in all types of programs – summer meal programs (Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option), afterschool and early childhood settings (Child and Adult Care Food Program).

DoD Fresh Food Program

Locally Grown Produce from Burke County prepared for SFSP Meals

It was another successful year for DoD Fresh Food Program here in Georgia! The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program allows schools to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce.

Advantages of the DoD Fresh Produce program include greater buying power, consistent deliveries, emphasis on high quality, a large variety of produce items including pre-cuts and locally grown, and an easy-to-use ordering website with funds tracking. Either States or their schools place orders directly for a variety of American-grown fresh products.

Here are a few pictures of locally grown produce used to prepare summer meals in Burke County by SFSP Sponsor Burke County Public Schools.



Local Sourcing Spotlight *A is for ...*

It's apple season! Nothing says autumn more than apples. Gilmer and Fannin County serve as the epicenter with 85% of **Georgia Grown** apples harvested in North Georgia.

There are several varieties of apples grown including: Ozark Gold, Paulard (available July – August); Red Delicious, Golden Delicious (available July – December); Rome Beauty, Mutzu Crispin (available August – December); Empire, Jonagold, Jonathan (available August – September); Arkansas Black, Fuji, Granny Smith, Stayman Winesap and Yates (available October – December).

Located in Ellijay, **Red Apple Barn** officially opens for apple picking Labor Day Weekend. Owned and operated by the Pritchett Family, this family farm has been planting, growing and harvesting apples since 1965. Visit their website for helpful **Apple Tasting Chart** or checkout their pumpkin patch opening in October.



For questions regarding procurement, please contact **LaMonika Jones** Procurement Compliance Officer.

Nutrition Ed Nook

A is for Apple!



Bite into your first apple of the season and *crunch* the sound and crisp air of fall is upon us as we celebrate apples as the Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) item. Apples are high in fiber and vitamin C and add a sweet crisp to any added dish. Enjoy biting into apples together at the same time to see how loud of a crunch your participants can make!

Integration

- **Easy Apple Coleslaw**
- **Homemade Applesauce**
- **Baked Batatas and Apples**
- **Baked Sweet Potatoes and Apples**

Education

- Perform a taste test with your participants – enjoy Granny Smith, Red Delicious, Pink Lady, Gala and other apple varieties!
- Read **“Bring Me Some Apples and I’ll Make You a Pie: A Story About Edna Lewis” by Robbin Gourley**
- Watch **“A is for Apples”** from Small Bites Adventure Club

Conversation

- Did you know apples grow on trees?
- What sound does an apple make when you bite into it?
- What color apples have participants tried? (red, pink, green, yellow)

Share your summer Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of watermelon with Nutrition Health Educator, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at diana.myers@decal.ga.gov!

DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight:

Meet Tamika Boone, Director of

Nutrition Services

Tamika Boone serves as Director of Nutrition Services for the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).

In this role, she helps ensure children and eligible adults have access to healthy meals and snacks through the management and oversight of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program.

Previously, Tamika served as a Compliance Manager for DECAL and as a Principal Management Analyst with the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. She has significant experience working with government programs and with ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in operations.



Tamika, her husband Harold and their four year old daughter Alexandria reside in Fayetteville.

COVID-19 Resources for Sponsors

FAQs: Serving Meals during Unanticipated School Closures

Answers to frequently asked questions regarding serving meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SFSP: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time for Children During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Nationwide Waivers:

SFSP

For full details on the SFSP waivers below, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo.

DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers Due to COVID-19

For full details, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo, or [click here](#) for a complete list of the Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19.

Area Eligibility

Allows Program operators to locate Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) open sites in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Closed Enrolled Eligibility

Under this waiver, for all States, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) closed enrolled sites during the COVID-19 public health emergency may determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

First Week Site Visits

FNS waives, for all States, the requirement that Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are required to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation. (2) This waiver applies to State agencies administering and local organizations that have operated the SFSP successfully in the previous year, and SFSP sponsors in good standing that have successfully participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Meal Time Waiver

This waiver allows program operators the flexibility to adjust the times meals and snacks are provided in order to streamline operations. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Non-Congregate Feeding

The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Parent Pick-Up

Under this waiver, program operators in a state with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19-related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Onsite Monitoring Waiver for Sponsors

For sponsors only - FNS waives that SFSP monitoring requirements included at 7 CFR 225.15(d) be conducted on site. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Meal Pattern Flexibilities

The requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver expired June 30, 2021****

October Farm to School Month

Sign Up Today to Receive Access to an Online Toolkit

Are you ready to start livin' la vida okra with us!?
The sign-up for this year's October Farm to School Month campaign is now open!

Sign up today to receive access to our online toolkit filled with okra-themed easy activities, standards-based lessons, recipes, and more. The first 300 individuals to sign up can choose to be mailed seeds, washable tattoos, and our school garden planting and harvest calendar.

To find out more and sign up, visit bit.ly/livinlavidakra.
#livinlavidakra #farmtoschool @GeorgiaOrganics.



Strategic Plan for Growing Farm to School and Early Care and Education in Georgia

The Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalition (Coalition) and Georgia Farm to School Alliance (Alliance) engaged 53 partner organizations including K-12 school staff, ECE professionals, non-profits, health systems, universities, and state agencies (stakeholders) to create the 2021-2025 strategic plans.

In addition to independent strategic plans for each entity, the Coalition and Alliance stakeholders agreed on joint goals and key measures of success to document collective achievement of the plans.

Access the document [here](#).

Read Now!
bit.ly/StrategicPlan2021-2025

Dates to Remember

DATE:	
September 23	• Deadline to submit Turnip the Beet Award Nominations
September 24	• Deadline to participate in the SFSP Sponsor Survey
October 1	• Farm to School Month
October 18	• Memo Monday
October 27	• Allocating Cost in Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) Webinar
October 31	• Annual Year End Reconciliation Forms & Bank Statements due

NEW DECAL Download *COVID-19 Update*

On the next ...
DECAL Download
New Episodes Every Wednesday!

This Week's Guests

Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner
of Child Care Services

Dr. Jenna Gettings
Epidemic Intelligence Service
Officer with the Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention

This Week's Topic:
COVID-19 Update

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DECAL has joined the Georgia Department of Public Health in updating COVID-19 Guidance specifically for Georgia child care facilities. The guidance, first released in August 2020, covers everything from COVID-19 prevention strategies, promoting vaccinations, and consistent and correct use of masks. With new information constantly coming in, this week's episode dives into that guidance and updating this everchanging situation.

Joining us to talk about COVID-19 guidance for child

care in Georgia is Pam Stevens the Deputy Commissioner of Child Care Services, and Dr. Jenna Gettings, an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta currently assigned as a school team lead with the Georgia Department of Public Health.

As always stay tuned for a water cooler question and the DECAL Download Quiz for your chance to win a nice prize from one of our community sponsors.

[Click here to listen.](#)



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Nutrition Division
Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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